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# ROM



Two-hundred years ago, the evil Dire Wraiths threatened the peace-loving planet, Galador. In their homeworld's darkest hour, a thousand brave, young Galadorians sacrificed humanity itself to become Cyborg Warriors, a last desperate line of defense. Though hopelessly outnumbered, these Spaceknights triumphed, and pursued the remnants of the Wraith horde across the universe. Now, alone in the Enemy's mightiest stronghold, on a backward planet called Earth, one Galadorian Warrior faces his most awesome challenge.

**STAR LOG PRESENTS THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS—ROM!**

# IT CAME FROM BEYOND THE STARS



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## PROLOGUE:

DEEP SPACE,  
UNTOLD LIGHT  
YEARS AWAY.

TURIN G'AR,  
THE BODY HAS  
SEEN FIT TO  
CONVICT YOU OF  
UNMUTUAL  
ACTS!

I AM  
INNOCENT!

DO NOT PERJURE  
YOURSELF FURTHER  
IN THE ONENESS OF  
THE BODY, YOUR  
CRIME IS KNOWN  
TO ALL.

IT IS OUR  
JUDGMENT THAT  
YOU BE EXPELLED  
FROM THE  
BODY--

--AND  
BOUND  
IN BANDS  
OF STAR-  
STUFF.

NO! I  
RESENT MY  
UNMUTUALITY!  
LET ME MERGE  
AGAIN WITH THE  
BODY!

DO NOT  
BANISH ME  
TO THE COLD  
BEYOND!

THERE IS NO RESPONSE. THE STAR-  
STUFF BONDS CUT OFF ALL THOUGHT  
TRANSMISSION TO THE BODY. TURIN  
G'AR IS ALONE.



ALONE, HE BEGINS TO MOVE THROUGH SPACE, PROPELLED BY SOME FORM OF ENERGY BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING.

TIME AND DISTANCE ARE MEANINGLESS TO THE STAR-FORM CRIMINAL. HE HAS NO DESTINATION...

...NO DESIRE SAVE AN INCREASING URGE FOR WARMTH. BEYOND THE RINGS OF SATURN HE SENSES --THE SUN.

BUT BEFORE HE REACHES THE SOLAR ORB, THE THIRD WORLD OF OUR SYSTEM ATTRACTS HIS ATTENTION.



EARTH.

HEY, GUYS! LOOK--UP IN THE SKY!



AW, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD, PINKY-- YA MADE ME MISS! THAT WAS MY PITCH-- I KNOW IT WAS!

BUT, BUTCH-- THERE'S SOMETHIN' UP THERE... LIKE A COMET OR SOMETHIN'!



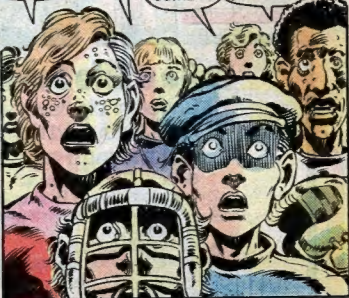
OH, BY THE WAY-- STRIKE-THREE!

BEFORE BUTCH CAN BRAIN PINKY WITH HIS BAT, THE BALLPLAYERS TURN THEIR GAZE SKYWARD...



...TO DISCOVER THAT THERE IS, INDEED, SOMETHING THERE.

SEE HOW IT SHINES! WHAT IS IT? PINKY SAID A COMET! DON'T LOOK LIKE NO COMET TO ME!



TURIN G'AR HAS OBSERVED THESE WARM-THINGS FROM ON HIGH. NOW HE MOVES CLOSER.

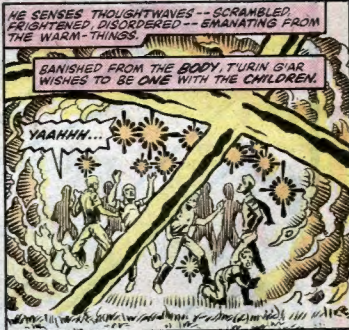
HOLY CATS--!



MAMA! MAMA!

HE SENSES THOUGHTWAVES--SCRAMBLED, FRIGHTENED, DISORDERED--EMANATING FROM THE WARM-THINGS.

BANISHED FROM THE BODY, TURIN G'AR WISHES TO BE ONE WITH THE CHILDREN.

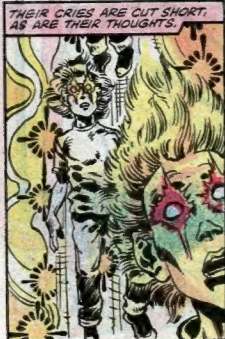
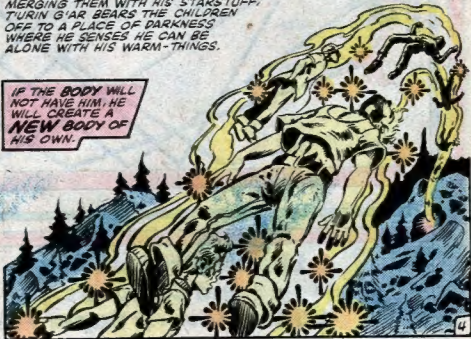


YAAHHH...

THEIR CRIES ARE CUT SHORT, AS ARE THEIR THOUGHTS.

MERGING THEM WITH HIS STARSTUFF, TURIN G'AR BEARS THE CHILDREN OFF TO A PLACE OF DARKNESS WHERE HE SENSES HE CAN BE ALONE WITH HIS WARM-THINGS.

IF THE BODY WILL NOT HAVE HIM, HE WILL CREATE A NEW BODY OF HIS OWN.





# NIGHT FRIGHT!

FOR THE BETTER PART OF A DAY, THE SILVER CYBORG SPACEKNIGHT--ROM--HAS FELT UNEASY. HIS BIOCIRCUITS QUIVERING WITH A SENSE OF SOME GREAT EVIL ABOUT TO OCCUR.

HE HAS LEARNED BETTER THAN TO DISCOUNT THOSE FEELINGS. THEY HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE MORE THAN ONCE IN HIS UNENDING WAR AGAINST THE DIRE WRAITHS.

ROCKET-POPS ROARING, ROM HAS SOARED FORTH IN SEARCH OF WRAITH-KIND. HIS ENERGY ANALYZER HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL FIND A CONCENTRATION OF HIS FOEMEN HERE, IN CARSON'S GLEN.

STRANGELY, HIS ENERGY ANALYZER HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT ROM WILL ENCOUNTER...SOMETHING ELSE!

KEEP SEARCHING! THEM KIDS HAVE GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE!

WE'VE HAD KIDS GET LOST BEFORE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

BATS, GLOVES... ALL LEFT STREWN ABOUT THE BALL-FIELD--!

IF THIS IS A GAME, WE'LL TAN THEIR HIDES!

IN THEIR HEARTS, THE SEARCHERS ALREADY SUSPECT THEY ARE NOT INVOLVED IN A GAME.

A COMMUNITY DESPERATELY  
SEARCHES THE FOOTHILLS FOR  
ITS MISSING CHILDREN.

HAVE I COME  
UPON A PLOT  
OF WRAITHS  
DESIGN ?

SET ON WIDE-BEAM,  
ROM'S ENERGY  
ANALYZER SCANS THE  
MEN ASSEMBLED  
BELOW HIM.

I DETECT NO  
WRAITHS  
AMONG THE  
SEARCH-  
PARTY.

ONLY MEN--  
FRIGHTENED,  
FEARFUL  
MEN.

AND SOMETHING OTHER  
... SOMETHING NOT OF  
THIS WORLD ... FURTHER  
UP THE SLOPES.

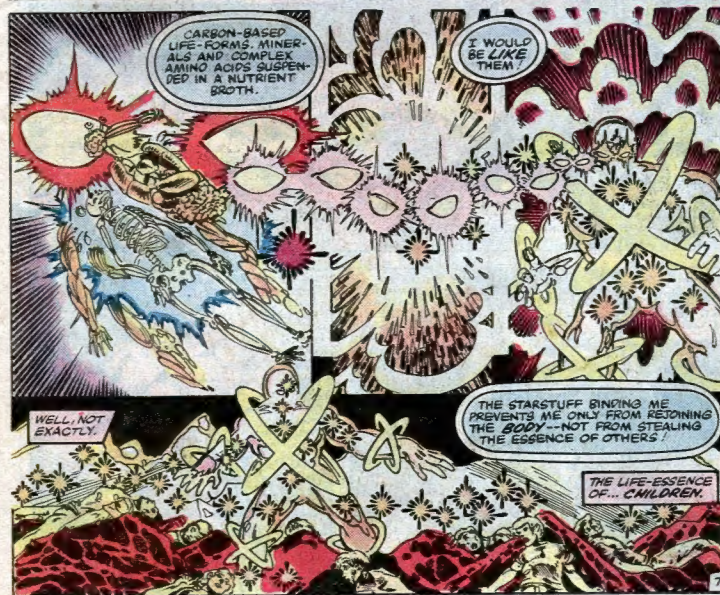
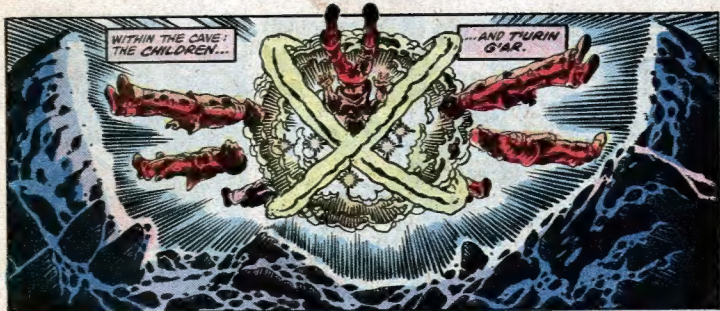
PING PING  
PING

LET THE HUMANS SEARCH  
IN THEIR OWN FASHION,  
WITH FLASHLIGHTS AND  
BAYING DOGS.

I WILL FOLLOW THE  
ENERGY-TRAIL MY  
ANALYZER HAS  
DETECTED TO  
ITS SOURCE.

DARK AGAINST DEEP SHADOW, A  
CAVE NEST--  
HIDDEN AMIDST THE  
HIGH HILLS.







ROM ENTERS  
THE CAVE.

MY ENERGY  
ANALYZER  
DETECTS  
SOMETHING  
ALIEN  
WITHIN.

MY BIOCIRCUITS SENSE  
THAT IT IS EVIL.

CYBORG VISION SCANS  
THE CAVE-DARK...

...AND FINDS THE  
CHILDREN.

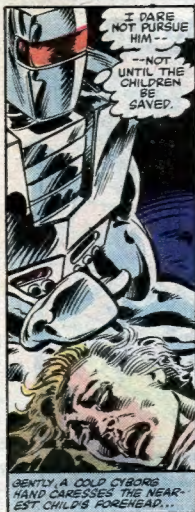
GOLDEN GATES  
OF GALADOR--WHO  
HAS PERPETRATED  
THIS CRIME?!

DEAD? NO, COLD  
AS THE CLAY  
ON WHICH  
THEY LIE.  
BUT LIVING.

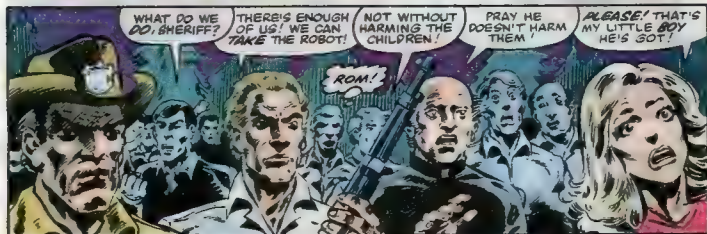
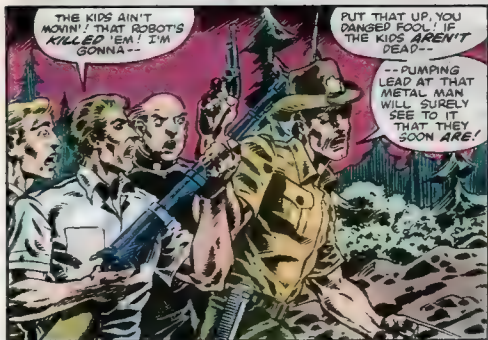
SOMEONE...  
SOMETHING...  
HAS TAMPERED  
WITH THEIR  
MOLECULAR  
STRUCTURE.

THEIR  
CONDITION IS  
MOST CRITICAL.

THE ENERGY-  
THIEF'S TRAIL  
LEADS OUT OF  
THE CAVE BY  
ANOTHER  
PATH.







AS THE PARENTS OF CARSON'S GLEN GRATEFULLY RECEIVE THEIR CHILDREN, THERE ARE THOSE IN THE GATHERING CROWD WHO RECOGNIZE ROM AT ONCE!

THE SPACE-KNIGHT-- HERE! HE MUST HAVE DETECTED OUR PRESENCE!

IMPOSSIBLE! THE JAMMING DEVICES ON OUR BELTS SHOULD SHIELD US FROM HIS ACCURSED ENERGY ANALYZER!

WHATEVER HARMED THE HUMAN CHILDREN DREW HIM HITHER! IT WAS NOT OUR DOING!

BUT THE SPACEKNIGHT WILL BLAME US FOR IT--

--AND THE INSIPID EARTHLINGS MAY WELL BELIEVE THE NOBLE GALADORIAN... UNLESS WE SHIFT THE BLAME TO ROM!

THESE TWO ARE HUMAN-DISGUISED DIRE WRAITHS. EONS AGO, ROM AND HIS FELLOW SPACEKNIGHTS DEFEATED THE WRAITH INVASION OF GALADOR...

...AND DROVE THE EVIL ONES FROM THEIR OWN DARK NEBULA OUT INTO THE VASTNESS OF SPACE. SWEARING REVENGE, THE WRAITHS BEGAN TO REBUILD THEIR STRENGTH ON OTHER WORLDS... WORLDS SUCH AS EARTH.

YOUR CHILDREN URGENTLY REQUIRE MEDICAL CARE.

PINKY FEELS SO LIGHT-- SO LIFELESS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!

THAT IS HOW I FOUND THE CHILD...

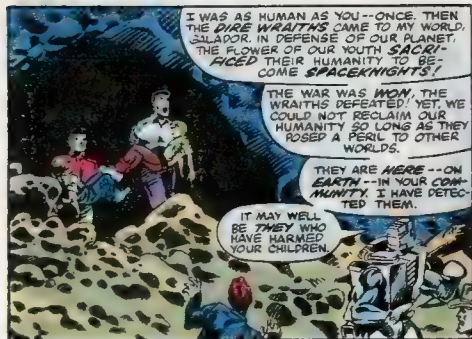
THE DIRE WRAITHS SEE THEIR CHANCE TO SOW THE SEEDS OF DISCORD.

LIAR! MURDERER! IT WAS YOU WHO HARMED OUR CHILDREN!

I DID NOTHING...

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN!





I WAS AS HUMAN AS YOU--ONCE. THEN THE **DIRE WRAITHS** CAME TO MY WORLD, SALADOR. IN DEFENSE OF OUR PLANET, THE FLOWER OF OUR YOUTH **SACRIFICED** THEIR HUMANITY TO BECOME **SPACEKNIGHTS**!

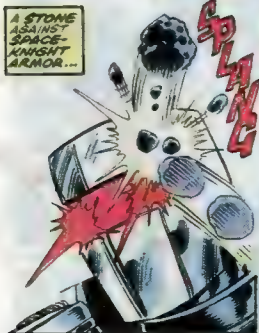
THE WAR WAS **WON**, THE **WRAITHS** DEFEATED! YET, WE COULD NOT RECLAIM OUR HUMANITY SO LONG AS THEY ROSE A PERIL TO OTHER WORLDS.

THEY ARE **HERE**--ON **EARTH**--IN YOUR COMMUNITY. I HAVE DETECTED THEM.

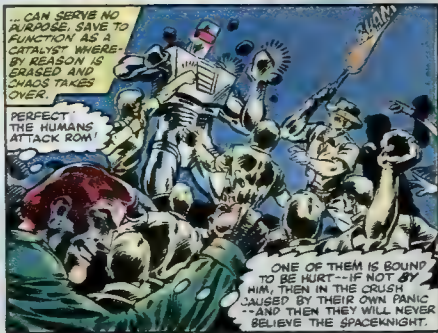
IT MAY WELL BE **THEY** WHO HAVE HARMED YOUR CHILDREN.



YOU CAN'T FOOL US! YOU'RE THE ONLY **ALIEN** HERE! YOU HURT THE CHILDREN!



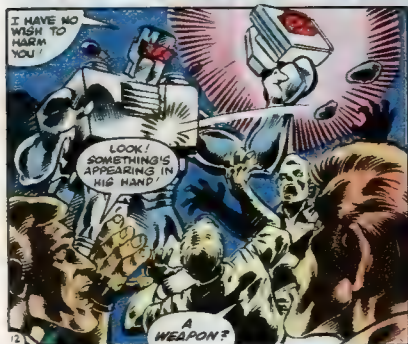
A STONE AGAINST SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR...



... CAN SERVE NO PURPOSE, SAVE TO FUNCTION AS A CATALYST WHEREBY REASON IS ERASED AND CHAOS TAKES OVER.

PERFECT THE HUMANS ATTACK NOW!

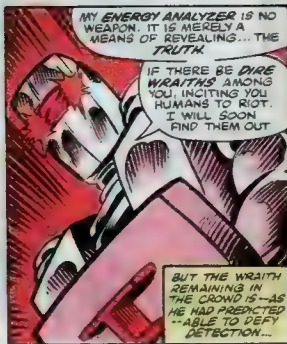
ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO BE HURT--IF NOT BY HIM, THEN IN THE CRUSH CAUSED BY THEIR OWN PANIC--AND THEN THEY WILL NEVER BELIEVE THE SPACEKNIGHT.



I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU!

LOOK! SOMETHING'S APPEARING IN HIS HAND!

A WEAPON?

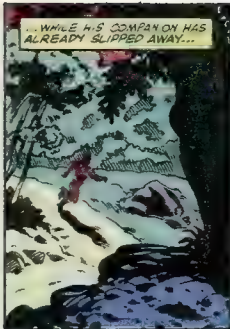


MY ENERGY ANALYZER IS NO WEAPON. IT IS MERELY A MEANS OF REVEALING... THE TRUTH.

IF THERE BE **DIRE WRAITHS** AMONG YOU, INCITING YOU HUMANS TO RIOT. IT WILL SOON FIND THEM OUT.

BUT THE WRAITH REMAINING IN THE CROWD IS--AS HE HAD PREDICTED--ABLE TO DEFY DETECTION...

...WHILE HIS COMPANION HAS  
ALREADY SLIPPED AWAY...



AND SHEDDING THE  
HUMAN DISGUISE  
WHICH IS SO ABHOR-  
RENT TO HIM...



...ASSUMES  
ANOTHER  
SHAPE TO  
FOREWARN  
HIS FELLOWS  
OF ROM'S  
ARRIVAL IN  
CARSON'S  
Z-EN.



MY WRAITH-BROTHERS IN TOWN  
WORK AT CONSTRUCTING A GIANT  
JAMMER WHICH WILL HIDE ALL  
TRACE OF OUR ACTIVITIES  
FROM ROM'S ANALYZER!



I MUST WARN THEM  
TO COMPLETE CON-  
STRUCTION BEFORE ROM  
DISENGAGES FROM  
THE MOB!


HALFWAY  
THERE, HIS  
FLIGHT IS  
INTER-  
CEPTED



BUT THE  
WRAITH-BAT  
NEVER REACHES  
THE TOWN.



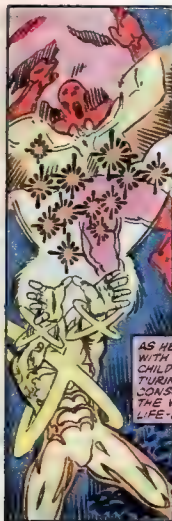




I AM  
STARDUST!  
I WANT YOUR  
LIFE!

CHAPTER TWO

THE  
SCOURGE  
FROM  
SPACE!



AS HE DID  
WITH THE  
CHILDREN,  
TURIN GAI  
CONSUMES  
THE WRAITH'S  
LIFE-ENERGIES



HOWEVER THE  
CHILDREN HAD  
ONLY YIELDED  
SOME OF THEIR  
MOLECULAR  
MATTER. THE  
WRAITH YIELDS  
ALL.



INTERESTING THIS  
WORLD SHELTERS TWO  
DISTINCT INTELLIGENT  
LIFE-FORMS... ONE  
FAR MORE SATISFYING  
THAN THE OTHER.

I WOULD  
HAVE MORE OF  
THE SECOND, TO  
MAKE THE BODY  
GROW.



SENDING OUT  
TENDRILS OF  
STARSTUFF TO  
SCAN THE VICI-  
NITY, STARDUST  
DISCOVERS A  
CONCENTRATION  
OF THOSE HE  
SEEKS...

... AT THE  
POWER  
STATION  
IN CARSON'S  
GLEN.



IN THEIR  
THOUGHTS, THE  
YOUNG ONES  
WHOSE ENERGY  
I ABSORBED  
CALLED THEM-  
SELVES...  
HUMAN.

THE LAST  
CREATURE I  
ABSORBED WAS  
DIFFERENT. HIS  
RACE-NAME  
WAS... DIRE  
WRAITH.

THERE  
ARE MORE  
OF HIS  
KIND...



...HERE.

BY  
THE DARK  
NEBULA--

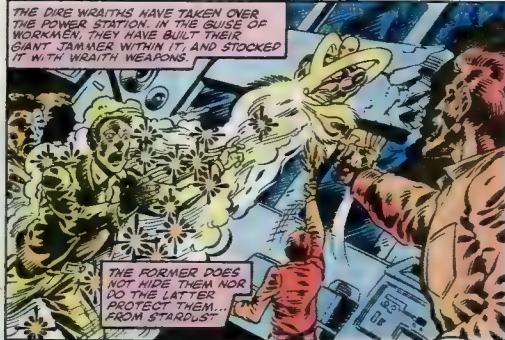


FROM BEYOND YOUR  
DARK NEBULA, WRAITH-  
THING-- FROM BEYOND  
THE STARS!

STARDUST COMES!



THE DIRE WRAITHS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE POWER STATION. IN THE GUISE OF WORKMEN, THEY HAVE BUILT THEIR GIANT JAMMER WITHIN IT, AND STOCKED IT WITH WRAITH WEAPONS.



THE FORMER DOES NOT HIDE THEM NOR DO THE LATTER PROTECT THEM... FROM STARDUST

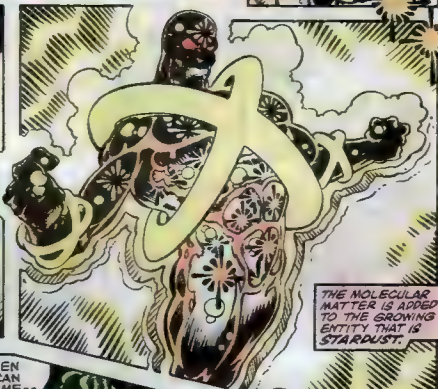
MORE MASS TO THE BODY! MORE!



THE WRAITHS DIE, TURNING TO DUST.



THE DUST TURNS TO MOLECULAR MATTER.

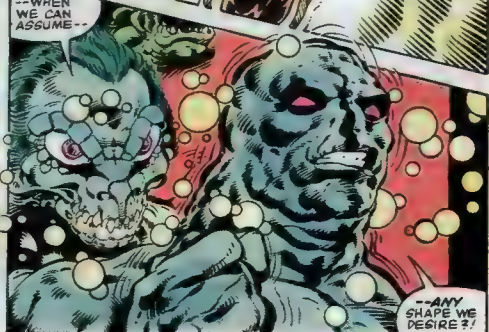


THE MOLECULAR MATTER IS ADDED TO THE GROWING ENTITY THAT IS STARDUST.

WHY DO WE COMBAT THIS CREATURE IN OUR POWERLESS HUMAN FORMS--



--WHEN WE CAN ASSUME--



--ANY SHAPE WE DESIRE?!

ASSUMING SAVAGE SHAPES  
BOTH NATIVE AND ALIEN  
TO EARTH...

...THE DIRE WRAITHS  
COUNTERATTACK!

YET NO SHAPE RENDERS THEM  
IMMUNE TO THE SWIRLING STAR-  
STUFF...

...WHICH ABSORBS  
THEM INTO THE MASS  
OF TURIN G'AR.

ONLY ONE  
WRAITH  
REMAINS.

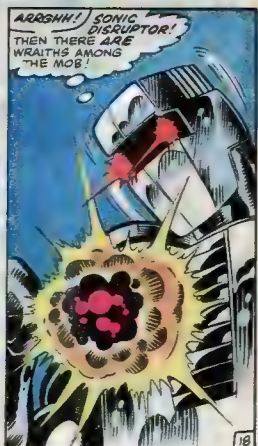
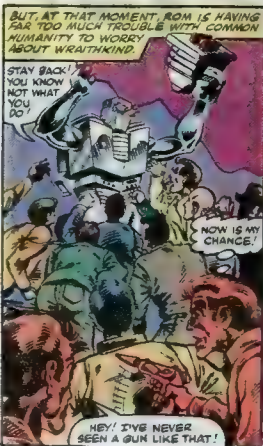
EITHER VERY WISE  
OR VERY COWARDLY,  
HE HAD ASSUMED A  
SHAPE WHICH STAR-  
DUST MIGHT OVER-  
LOOK.

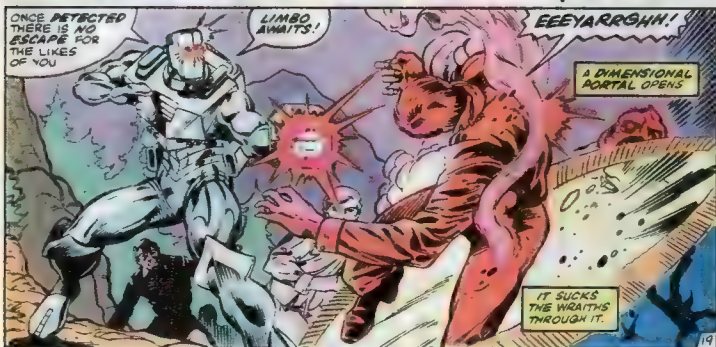
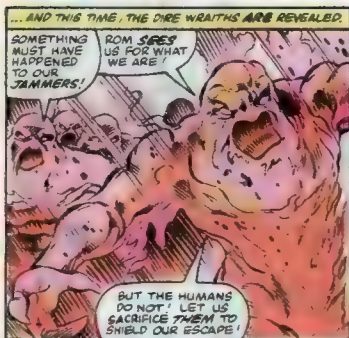
THE BODY  
GROWS--THE  
BODY  
PROSPERS!

BUT I NEED MORE  
IF I AM TO BE FREED  
FROM MY STARSTUFF  
BONDS!

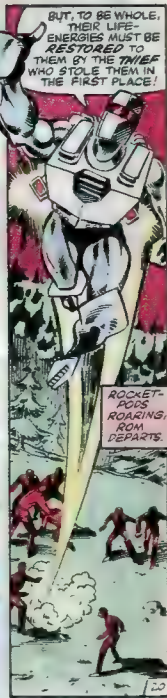
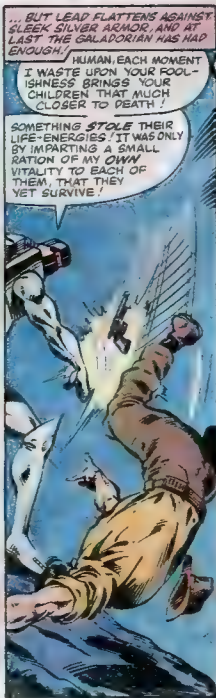
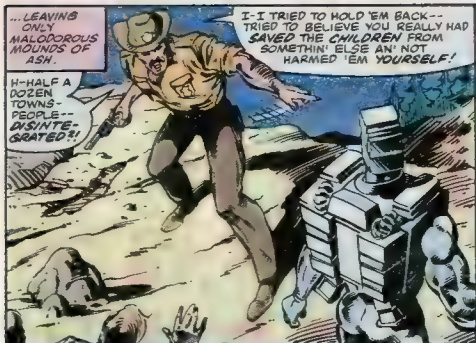
THE WRAITH-RODENT  
HAS NO DESIRE TO  
FILL OUT STARSTUFF'S  
WELL-BALANCED DIET.













THAT ROBOT'S  
HEADING RIGHT  
FOR TOWN!

SHERIFF,  
WHAT ARE  
WE GONNA  
DO?

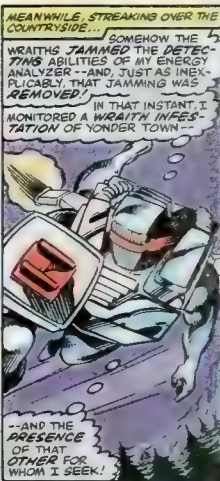


THE ROBOT FRIED  
SIX CITIZENS--  
BUT LET ME  
ALIVE! WHY?

HE SAID  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THEM  
NOT BEING  
HUMAN!

NO! I MUST  
BE MAD TO  
BELIEVE HIM!  
AND YET--

TO YOUR CARS,  
MEN! WE'VE GOT TO  
GET BACK TO TOWN!



MEANWHILE, STREAKING OVER THE  
COUNTRYSIDE...

SOMEHOW THE  
WRAITHS JAMMED THE DETEC-  
TING ABILITIES OF MY ENERGY  
ANALYZER--AND, JUST AS INEX-  
PLICABLY, THAT JAMMING WAS  
REMOVED!

IN THAT INSTANT, I  
MONITORED A WRAITH INFES-  
TATION OF YONDER TOWN--

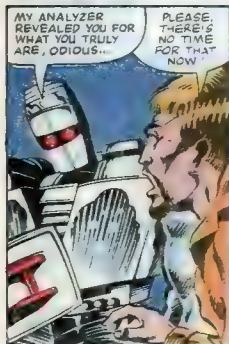
--AND THE  
PRESENCE  
OF THAT  
OTHER  
WHOM I SEEK!

CARSON'S GLEN:  
GUIDED BY HIS  
ENERGY ANALYZER  
ROM SETS TOWN  
JUST OUTSIDE THE  
TOWN'S POWER  
PLANT X--ME TO  
ENCOUNTER



A DIRE  
WRAITH!

ROM!



MY ANALYZER  
REVEALED YOU FOR  
WHAT YOU TRULY  
ARE, ODOUS...

PLEASE,  
THERE'S  
NO TIME  
FOR THAT  
NOW!



IT IS IN  
THERE--  
IT IS  
EATING  
US

DON'T LET IT GET ME,  
SPACEKNIGHT, I  
IMPLORE YOU! SHOW  
MERCY!

BETTER LIMBO  
THAN THAT KIND  
OF DEATH!



AS YOU WISH  
VILE CREATURE

AGAIN THE HIGH  
WHINE OF ROM'S  
NEUTRALIZER  
FILLS THE AIR...



...AND THE  
DIRE WRAITH  
RECEIVES THAT  
MERCY FOR  
WHICH HE  
THANKS

NOW I SHALL SEE WITH MY  
OWN CYBORG VISION THAT  
WHICH THE WRAITH FEARED  
SO GREATLY!

ALREADY DO  
I BEGIN TO  
SUSPECT 'T WILL  
BE THE SAME  
FORCE WHICH  
HARMED THE  
CHILDREN

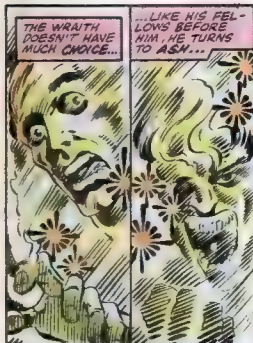
### CHAPTER THREE:

## TO SLAY A SOUL- THIEF!

INSIDE THE POWER  
STATION, THE LAST OF  
THE DIRE WRAITHS  
SURRENDERS TO THE  
ENERGY-SAPPING EVIL  
OF STARDUST!

MORE! TO  
GROW IN POWER,  
THE BODY  
MUST HAVE EVER  
MORE!

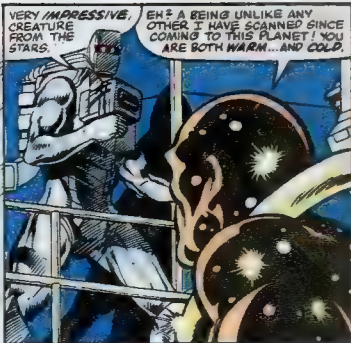
BE ONE WITH  
ME, WRAITH-THING  
LET YOUR LIFE  
FLOW FORTH INTO  
MINE!



THE WRATH  
DOESN'T HAVE  
MUCH CHOICE...

...LIKE HIS FEL-  
LWS BEFORE  
HIM, HE TURNS  
TO ASH...

...AND DIES,  
ABSORBED  
INTO THE  
BEING CALLED  
STARDUST.



VERY IMPRESSIVE.  
CREATURE FROM THE  
STARS.

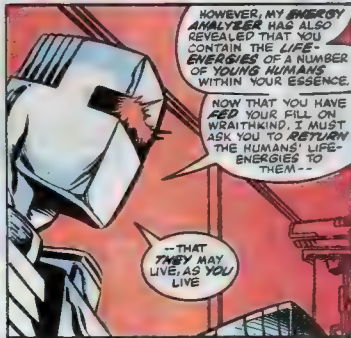
EH? A BEING UNLIKE ANY  
OTHER I HAVE SCANNED SINCE  
COMING TO THIS PLANET! YOU  
ARE BOTH WARM...AND COLD.



I AM ROM-- SPACEKNIGHT--  
SON OF GOLDEN GALADOR, A  
CYBORG GRAFT OF MAN  
AND MACHINE.

AND YOU HAVE SLAIN  
MANY OF MY ARCH-  
FOES.

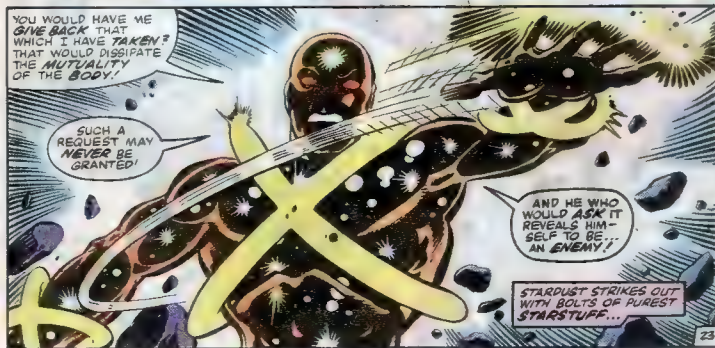
FOR THAT,  
I THANK  
YOU



HOWEVER, MY ENERGY  
ANALYZER HAS ALSO  
REVEALED THAT YOU  
CONTAIN THE LIFE-  
ENERGIES OF A NUMBER  
OF YOUNG HUMANS  
WITHIN YOUR ESSENCE.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE  
FED YOUR FILL ON  
WRAITHKIND, I MUST  
ASK YOU TO RETURN  
THE HUMANS' LIFE-  
ENERGIES TO  
THEM--

--THAT  
THEY MAY  
LIVE, AS YOU  
LIVE



YOU WOULD HAVE ME  
GIVE BACK THAT  
WHICH I HAVE TAKEN?  
THAT WOULD DISSIPATE  
THE MUTUALITY  
OF THE BODY!

SUCH A  
REQUEST MAY  
NEVER BE  
GRANTED!

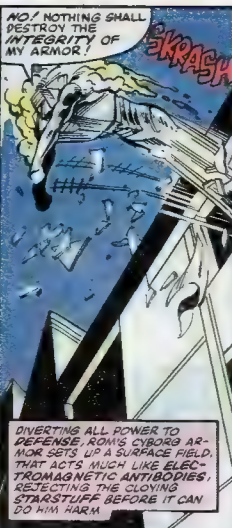
AND HE WHO  
WOULD ASK IT  
REVEALS HIM-  
SELF TO BE...  
AN ENEMY!

STARDUST STRIKES OUT  
WITH BOLTS OF PUREST  
STARSTUFF...



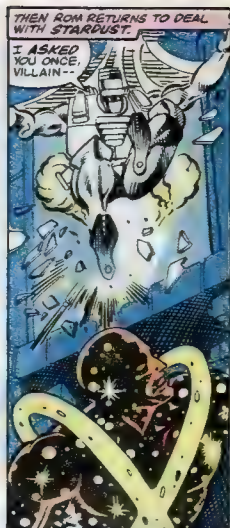


...WHICH, FLOWING  
OVER ROM, ATTEMPT  
TO CONSUME HIM!



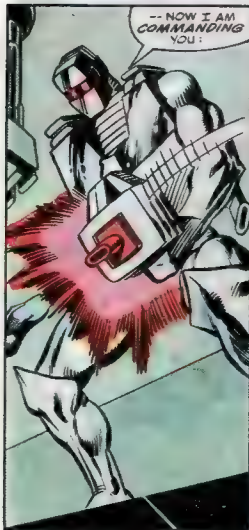
NO! NOTHING SHALL  
DESTROY THE  
INTEGRITY OF  
MY ARMOR!

DIVERTING ALL POWER TO  
DEFENSE, ROM'S CYBORG AR-  
MOR SETS UP A SURFACE FIELD.  
THAT ACTS MUCH LIKE ELEC-  
TROMAGNETIC ANTIBODIES,  
REJECTING THE CLOYING  
STARSTUFF BEFORE IT CAN  
DO HIM HARM



THEN ROM RETURNS TO DEAL  
WITH STARSTUFF.

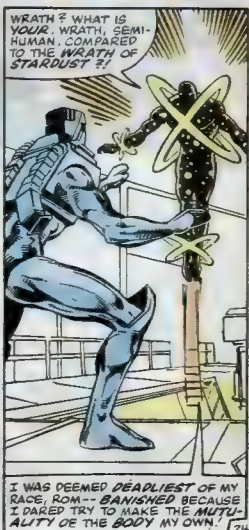
I ASKED  
YOU ONCE,  
VILLAIN--



-- NOW I AM  
COMMANDING  
YOU:

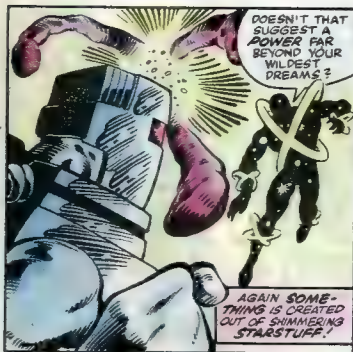


RETURN THE HUMANS'  
LIFE-ENERGIES, OR  
SUFFER THE WRATH  
OF ROM!



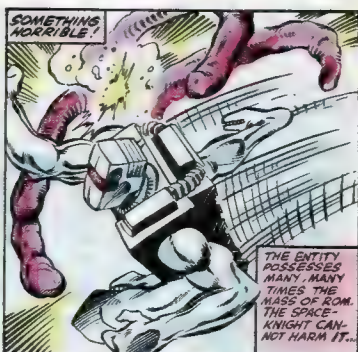
WRATH? WHAT IS  
YOUR WRATH, SEMI-  
HUMAN, COMPARED  
TO THE WRATH OF  
STARSTUFF?!

I WAS DEEMED DEADLIEST OF MY  
RACE, ROM-- BANISHED BECAUSE  
I DARED TRY TO MAKE THE MUTU-  
ALITY OF THE BODY MY OWN!



DOESN'T THAT SUGGEST A POWER FAR BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS?

AGAIN SOMETHING IS CREATED OUT OF SHIMMERING STARSTUFF!

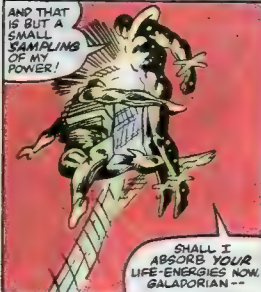


SOMETHING HORRIBLE!

THE ENTITY POSSESSES MANY, MANY TIMES THE MASS OF ROM. THE SPACE-KNIGHT CANNOT HARM IT...

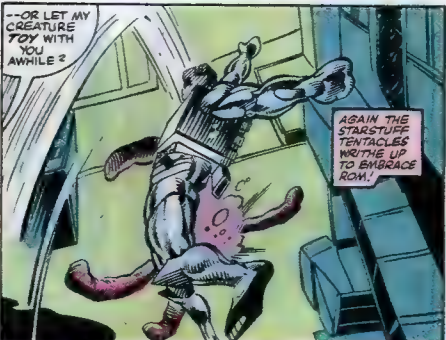
...BUT IT STRIKES HIM A STAGGERING BLOW THAT DRIVES THE SILVER SPACE-KNIGHT BACK TOWARDS ITS CREATOR.

AND THAT IS BUT A SMALL SAMPLING OF MY POWER!



SHALL I ABSORB YOUR LIFE-ENERGIES NOW, GALAPORIAN --

--OR LET MY CREATURE TOY WITH YOU AWHILE?



AGAIN THE STARSTUFF TENTACLES WRITHE UP TO EMBRACE ROM!

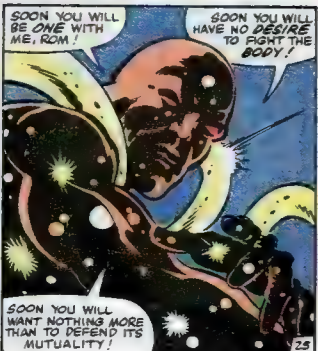
IT WISHES TO FEED UPON YOU EVEN AS I DO, SEMI-HUMAN! ALL THAT IS COMPOSED OF STARSTUFF POSSESSES THE URGE TO GROW INTO A BODY ALL ITS OWN!



HIS CIRCUITS SCRAMBLED BY THE STARSTUFF CREATURE, ROM FINDS HIMSELF ON THE VERGE OF DEFEAT... AND CONSUMPTION!

SOON YOU WILL BE ONE WITH ME, ROM!

SOON YOU WILL HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT THE BODY!



SOON YOU WILL WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO DEFEND ITS MUTUALITY!



OUTSIDE THE POWER PLANT, THE REMAINING DIRE  
WRAITHS GATHER...

ROM IS  
BATTLING  
THE STAR-  
CREATURE...

...DIVERTING  
ITS ATTEN-  
TION  
FROM  
US!

WHICHEVER ONE  
WINS, WE ARE  
STILL ENDAN-  
GERED!

PROJECT  
JAMMER IS  
DESTROYED!  
WE MUST  
FLEE!

BUT OUR JAMMER SECRETS ARE  
STORED IN THIS VAN-- WE CANNOT  
LEAVE IT TO BE FOUND BY ROM!

AND, UNFORTUNATELY,  
THAT LEAVES ONLY  
ROOM ENOUGH  
IN THE VAN  
FOR TWO!

TH--THEY'RE DRIVING OFF WITH-  
OUT US--LEAVING US TO DIE!

DON'T BE A FOOL! WE ARE  
ALL EXPENDABLE! BESIDES,  
WE MAY STILL ESCAPE--

-- BY ASSUMING ANY  
SHAPE WE CHOOSE  
AND FLEEING FROM  
CARSON'S GLEN!

ONLY THIS TOWN IS  
LOST TO US! THERE ARE  
COUNTLESS OTHERS ON EARTH  
IN WHICH TO START ANEW!

AND, INSIDE THE  
POWER PLANT--

STARSTUFF BONDS,  
SIMILAR TO THOSE  
WHICH RING ME, NOW  
BIND YOU, SPACEKNIGHT...

...AND, HELD HELPLESS IN THEIR CIRCLE,  
YOU CANNOT PREVENT ME FROM ANA-  
LYZING YOU!

STARDUST'S EYES SEEM  
TO PENETRATE TO ROM'S  
VERY SOUL, STRIPPING  
ASIDE THE SHELL OF  
PLANDANIUM ARMOR AND  
REVEALING THE MAN  
WITHIN.

IT IS NOT A  
PLEASANT  
SENSATION.

CREATURE, YOU HAVE  
DEFILED ME WITH  
YOUR UNHOLY  
EXAMINATION.

ANY INCLINATION  
I MIGHT HAVE HAD  
TO SHOW YOU MERCY  
EXISTS NO LONGER

I HAVE SUFFERED YOUR POWER,  
NOW YOU SHALL SUFFER MINE!



THE  
POWER OF  
GALADOR'S  
GREATEST  
WEAPON--

--THE NEUTRALIZER OF  
ROM, SPACEKNIGHT!



AS ITS NAME IMPLIES, THE  
NEUTRALIZER NEUTRALIZES  
ENERGY IN ALL ITS MYRIAD  
FORMS...



... AMONG THOSE FORMS  
BEING THE STARSTUFF  
BONDS THAT BIND BOTH  
ROM AND STARDUST.

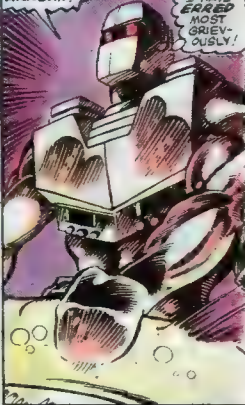
INCREDIBLE! YOU HAVE ACHIEVED  
WHAT I DESPITE ALL MY POWER,  
COULD NOT!



YOU HAVE  
SHATTERED THE  
STARSTUFF  
BONDS IMPOSED  
UPON ME BY THE  
BODY!

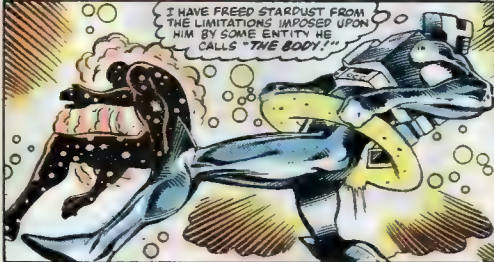
YOU HAVE FREED ME,  
THAT I MIGHT UNLEASH  
ALL MY LATENT POWER  
AGAINST YOU!

ARRGHH!



I HAVE  
ERRED  
MOST  
GRIEVOUSLY!

I HAVE FREED STARDUST FROM  
THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED UPON  
HIM BY SOME ENTITY HE  
CALLS "THE BODY!"



EVEN NOW HE SHEDS HIS  
HUMANOID SHAPE AND  
MERGES WITH THE VERY  
FABRIC OF SPACE!

HIS POWER IS VAST;  
EVIL; UNLIMITED!

AND YET, THE BODY  
CONTAINED HIM -- BY  
ENCIRCLING HIM WITHIN  
HIS STARSTUFF BELT!

PERHAPS IF I CAN  
EMPLOY THIS BELT  
AGAINST STARDUST,  
ALL IS NOT LOST!

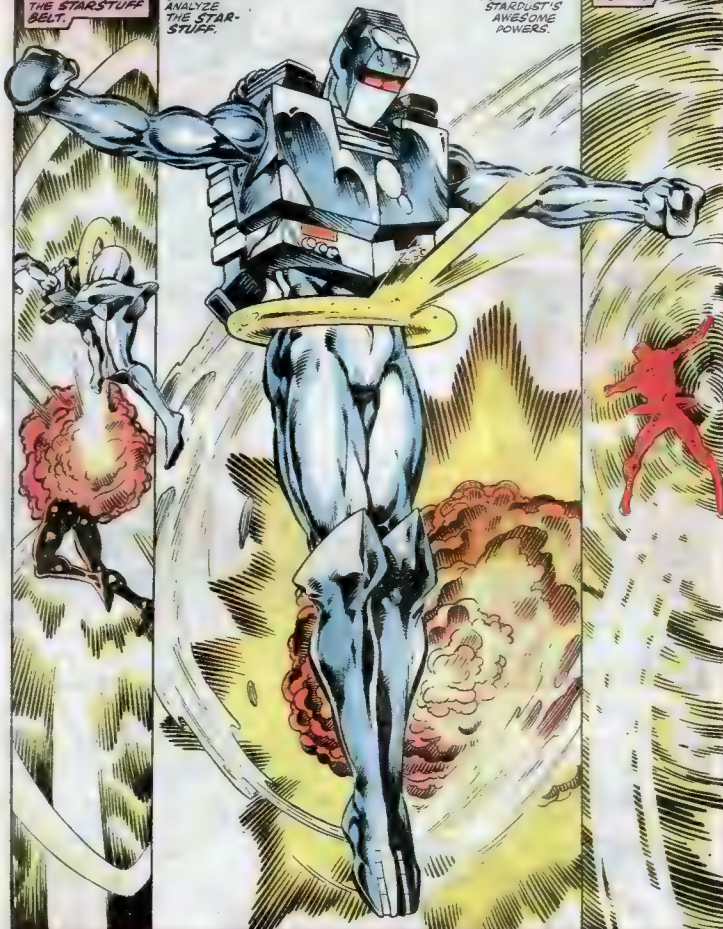


SWIRLING MADLY IN  
THE STAR-STORM  
CAUSED BY STAR-  
DUST, ROM DONS  
THE STARSTUFF  
BELT.

SENSORS INTER-  
WOVEN THROUGH-  
OUT HIS  
CYBORG  
CIRCUITS  
ANALYZE  
THE STAR-  
STUFF.

MASTERING THE  
BELT, ROM  
REALIZES ITS  
PURPOSE WAS TO  
CONTAIN  
STARSTUFF'S  
AWESOME  
POWERS.

IF IT COULD DO  
SO ONCE, SURELY  
IT CAN DO SO  
AGAIN!



BUT THIS TIME IT IS NOT THE INFINITE ENTITY, THE BODY THAT COMMANDS THE STARSTUFF TO BIND  
STARSTUFF... IT IS ROM OF GALADOR... THE GREATEST SPACEKNIGHT OF THEM ALL!

THOUGH HE FIGHTS FURIOUSLY FOR SURVIVAL, STARDUST IS BOUND BY THE STARSTUFF SHACKLES SENT FORTH BY ROM.

HE IMPLODES! HIS ENERGY COLLAPSES UP-ON ITSELF...

...AND IS DRAWN INTO ROM'S CIRCUITS!

AS STARDUST HAD STOLEN THE LIFE-ENERGIES OF OTHERS...

...SO HAS ROM NOW STOLEN HIS!

THE QUESTION THE SLEEK SILVER SPACEKNIGHT MUST NOW ASK HIMSELF IS:

WHAT TO DO WITH THE POWER OF THE STARS?

COULD HE NOT, IN ONE FELL SWOOP, ERADICATE ALL TRACE OF WRAITHKIND FROM EARTH?

PERHAPS.

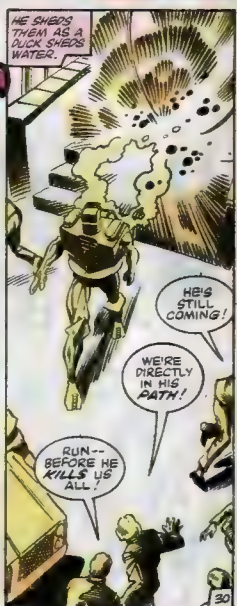
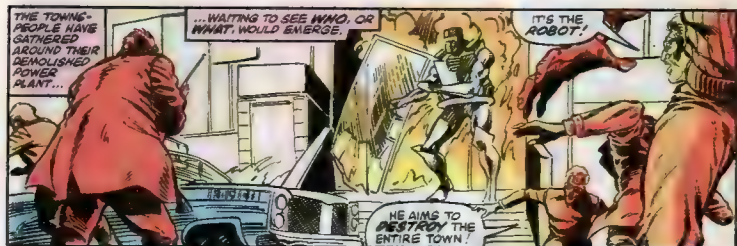
BUT IT OCCURS TO ROM THAT THERE IS A MORE IMMEDIATE USE TO WHICH HE MUST PUT THIS POWER.

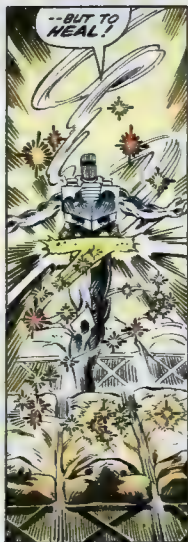
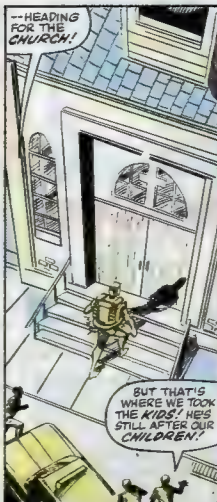
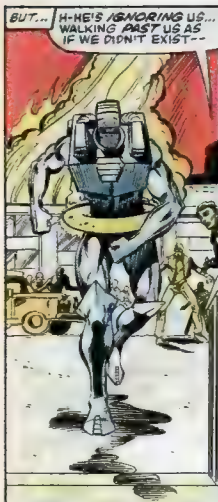
BURSTING WITH INCREDIBLE ENERGY, THE CYBORG SOLDIER STEPS OUT INTO THE TOWN OF CARSON'S GLEN!

CHAPTER  
FOUR:

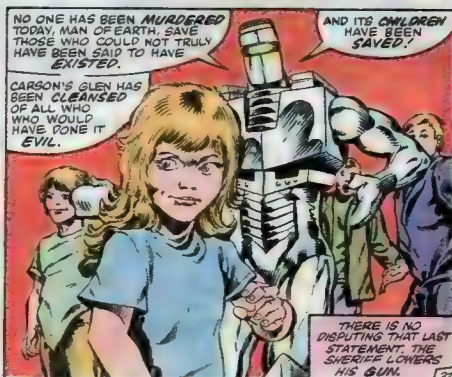
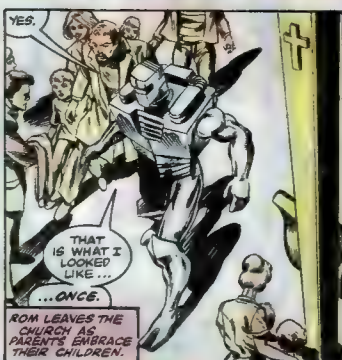
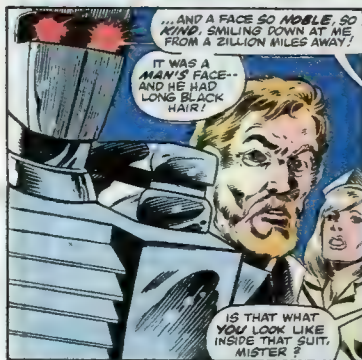
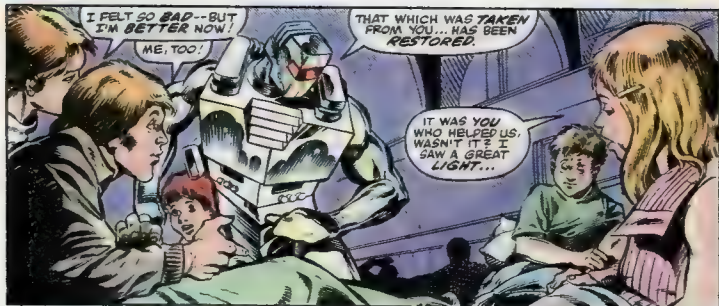
# ROM, THE HEALER!







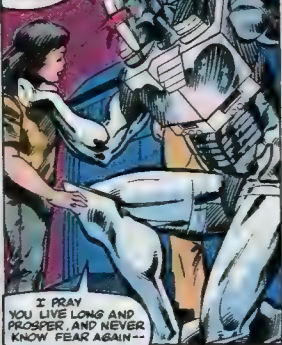




I CAME IN PEACE, SEEKING AN EVIL IN YOUR MIDST. INSTEAD, I FOUND AN EVEN GREATER PERIL THAN I DARED EVER IMAGINE. BOTH THREATS ARE GONE NOW. CARSON'S GLEN HAS BEEN CLEANSED.



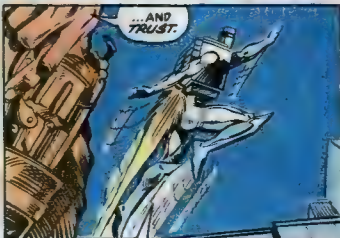
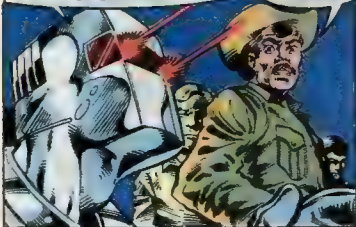
AND YOU, CHILDREN OF EARTH, HAVE BEEN MADE WHOLE AGAIN.



I PRAY YOU LIVE LONG AND PROSPER, AND NEVER KNOW FEAR AGAIN--

--THOUGH I SUSPECT FEAR OF ALL THAT IS ALIEN IS FAR TOO ENGRAINED IN THE HUMAN RACE TO EVER TRULY BE BANISHED.

I-I DUNNO. MAYBE NEXT TIME WE'LL BELIEVE.



...AND TRUST.

ON THAT DAY, MAN OF EARTH, THE CYBORG HEART OF ROM, SPACE-KNIGHT, WILL CRY FOR JOY!

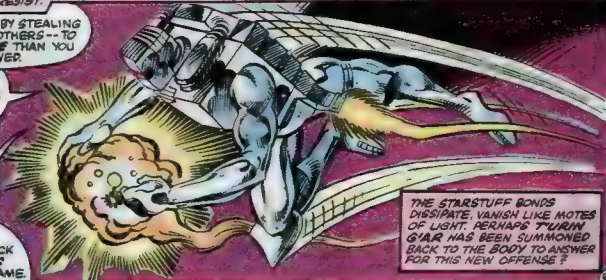
ROCKET-PODS FIRING, ROM IS GONE.

OUTSIDE OF CARSON'S GLEN, ROM REMOVES THE **STARSTUFF BONDS**, INSIDE WHICH THE EVIL ENTITY CALLED **STARDUST** IS TRAPPED. STARDUST IS SAPPED OF ALL BUT THAT ENERGY HE NEEDS TO SURVIVE AND IS HELPLESS TO RESIST.

YOU SOUGHT--BY STEALING THE LIVES OF OTHERS--TO BECOME **MORE** THAN YOU DESERVED.

NOW, BOUND IN **STARSTUFF**, YOU ARE **LESS** THAN WHAT YOU WERE

DEPART, CREATURE OF MALICE, GO BACK TO THE **STARS** WHENCE YOU CAME.



THE **STARSTUFF BONDS** DISSIPATE, VANISH LIKE MOTES OF LIGHT. PERHAPS **TYRIN G'AR** HAS BEEN SUMMONED BACK TO THE BODY TO ANSWER FOR THIS NEW OFFENSE?



MEANWHILE,  
ROM SEEKS  
OTHER  
VILLAINY

AND, ENERGY  
ANALYZER  
GUIDING HIM  
UNERRINGLY, HE  
FINDS THAT  
WHICH HE SEEKS.

ALL THE  
COMPONENTS  
OF OUR QUANT  
HAMMER ARE  
IN THIS TRUCK!

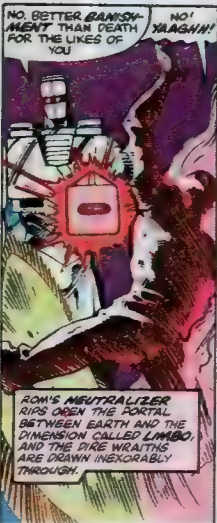
WE'LL REBUILD  
IT WHERE THAT  
STINKING SILVER  
SPACEKNIGHT  
WILL NEVER  
LOCATE IT!

THEN ALL  
WRAITHKIND  
WILL BE FREE  
TO OPERATE ON  
EARTH WITHOUT  
THE FEAR OF  
DISCOVERY!



YOUR DEVICE SHALL  
BE DESTROYED IT  
WILL NEVER BE USED  
TO HIDE WRAITH-  
KIND'S PRESENCE  
ON EARTH.

A-ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
SLAY US,  
SPACE-  
KNIGHT?!



THE TIME IS 200 YEARS AGO. AFTER LEAVING GALADOR,\* ROM RECEIVES A DISTRESS CALL-- FROM A FELLOW SPACEKNIGHT...

THERE, IN THAT DARK CLOUD, IS THE SOURCE OF THE SUMMONS!

# TRAITOR!

GODS OF SALADOR!  
IT IS GLORIOLE--WHO IS AMONG OUR THINKERS SECOND ONLY TO THE PRIME DIRECTOR HIMSELF!

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO HUM?

A GRANT/LAROCQUE/MAGYAR/KAMECKI/ SEAN /HILGROM PRODUCTION-- BROUGHT TO YOU BY JIM SHOOTER

R-ROM, MY OLD FRIEND? OR IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK OF THE DIRE WRAITHS?

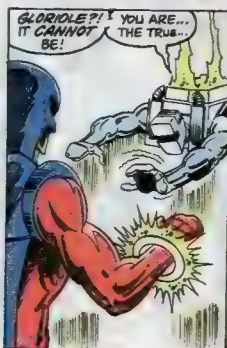
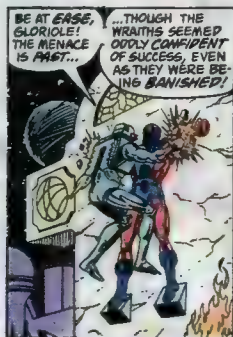
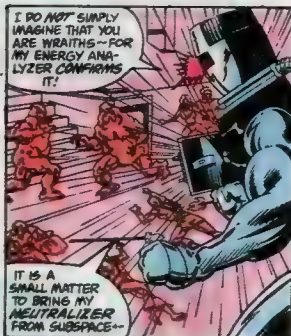
IF ROM YOU ARE--BENARE!

TOO LATE, SPACEKNIGHT!  
OUR TRAP IS SPRUNG!

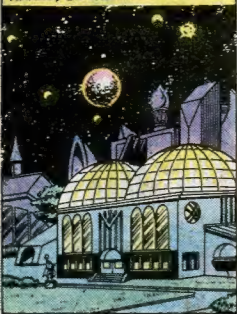
MONTHS!

NOW, ROM, THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR YOU--FOR MORE FORCES ARE AT WORK HERE THAN YOU IMAGINE!





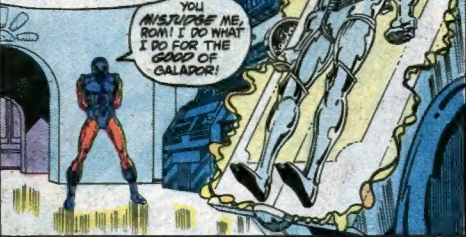
IN A WRAITH LABORATORY, ROM  
MAKES, BOUND--



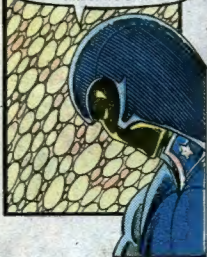
--BUT THE TORMENT HIS CYBORG BODY  
FEELS IS NOTHING, COMPARED TO THE  
ANGUISH OF GLORILE'S TREASON...

TRAITOR! HOW DID THE DIRE  
WRAITHS PERVERT THE LIGHT  
OF GALADOR--AND SEDUCE  
YOU TO THEIR CAUSE?

YOU  
MISJUDGE ME,  
ROM! I DO WHAT  
I DO FOR THE  
GOOD OF  
GALADOR!



AS A PEOPLE, WE EXCEL  
IN SCIENCE. BUT OUR FOES--  
THE WRAITHS--EMPLOY SORCERY,  
OF WHICH WE HAVE LITTLE  
KNOWLEDGE!



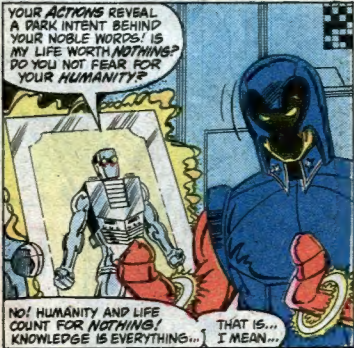
IN THE  
GUISE OF  
RENEGADE, I SHALL PIERCE  
THE WRAITHS'  
SECRETS--WHILE  
FEIGNING TO  
GIVE THEM OURS!



YOUR CAPTURE WAS NECESSARY,  
AND BY YOUR SACRIFICE, GALADOR  
WILL GAIN THE MEANS TO THWART  
ANY WRAITH ATTACK!



YOUR ACTIONS REVEAL  
A DARK INTENT BEHIND  
YOUR NOBLE WORDS! IS  
MY LIFE WORTH NOTHING?  
DO YOU NOT FEAR FOR  
YOUR HUMANITY?



NO! HUMANITY AND LIFE  
COUNT FOR NOTHING!  
KNOWLEDGE IS EVERYTHING...

THAT IS...  
I MEAN...

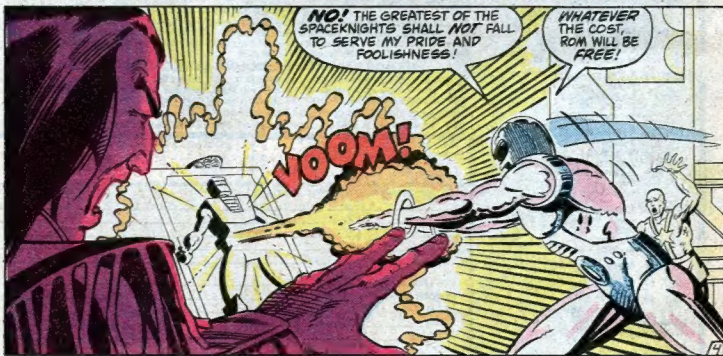
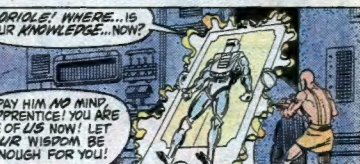
SUDDENLY...

WE ARE DONE  
WITH WAITING,  
GLORILE!



WHEN ROM IS A  
PRISONER OF THE  
DARK NEBULA,  
THEN SHALL YOUR  
TRAINING BEGIN!











YOUR ACTIONS  
Distracted  
them, Space-  
Knight--and  
bought me  
time to  
recover!



WITH MY NEUTRALIZER  
IN MY HAND, NO WRAITH  
MAY STAND AGAINST  
ME!



WE'VE  
FAILED!



FAREWELL...



BE GLAD THAT YOUR  
FAILURE BRINGS ONLY  
BANISHMENT, AND  
NOT DEATH!

AND NOW--  
GLORIOLE!



I...ALMOST HAD THEM, ROM--THE  
SECRETS OF THE DARK NEBULA! BUT  
HOW COULD I CONTINUE-- AFTER  
CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES  
OF MY QUEST?



I...HURT, ROM! THE  
WRAITH WEAPONS  
DAMAGED ME...  
BEYOND REPAIR...

WE WILL SPEAK NO  
MORE OF THIS INCIDENT,  
GLORIOLE!

MY...  
FRIEND...



ON A DISTANT ASTEROID,  
SOMETIME LATER...

FAREWELL, GLORIOLE!  
YOUR STORY MAY NEVER  
BE KNOWN!

TODAY YOU FORFEITED  
THE SORCEROUS KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE DIRE WRAITHS-- BUT  
YOU REGAINED SO MUCH MORE!

ON THAT DISTANT ASTEROID, THERE  
IS A TOMB--AND A GRIM REMINDER  
THAT EVEN A SPACEKNIGHT CAN BE  
BLINDED BY HIS OBSESSIONS...

THE END.